1. maintaining a growth rate of 7-8 per cent per year for a sustained period;
2. providing universal access to quality basic education and health;
3. generating gainful employment in agriculture, manufacturing and services and promoting investment;
4. assuring 100 days' employment to the breadwinner in each family at the minimum wage;
5. focusing on agriculture and infrastructure;
6. accelerating fiscal consolidation and reform; and
7. ensuring higher and more efficient fiscal devolution.

These broad objectives of the NCMP will provide the framework for the different Ministries of the Government to frame specific policies and devise appropriate programmes. The Planning Commission has advised the Ministries and Departments to redefine their priorities and redraw their programmes in accordance with the NCMP.

Increase in World Bank and IDA funding

1185. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank President has agreed that the level of World Bank and International Development Association (IDA) funding for India must be raised to $4 billion (Rs. 18,400 crores) a year; and

(b) if so, the details of Government's proposal to use the funding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) During his recent visit to India, the President, World Bank, during his official meetings, referred to the World Bank's Country Assistance Strategy where up-scaling of Bank's lending to India through International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loans and International Development Association (IDA) credits, to about US$3 billion per annum over the four years (July 2004 to June 2008) is envisaged.

(b) The above Bank lending would be utilized for various development projects in the country in sectors such as infrastructure, human development, rural livelihoods, urban development and agriculture, among others.

Introduction of 10 rupee coins

1186. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to introduce 10 rupee coins in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the designs that visually-challenged people can feel, techno-aesthetic brilliance in terms of form and metallurgy and safety are going to be the hallmark of the 10 rupee coins; and

(c) if so, how soon this is expected to happen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is expected that the production may start in the year 2006.

Increase in operations by foreign banks

1187. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign banks are exploring possibilities to start/increase operations in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to protect the interests of Indian banking industry;

(d) whether any proposal has been received from any foreign bank to take over any private sector bank in India; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?